

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition system mounted on a vehicle having a plurality of seats, comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup means for picking up uttered voices, said plurality of voice pickup means being arranged in each neighborhood of said plurality of seats, respectively;

determination means for determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition based on said speech signal determined by said determination means,

wherein said speech recognition means comprises a single unit capable of performing speech recognition for a plurality of voices.


2. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition system according to claim 1, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means whose speech level is equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is selected as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

3. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition system according to claim 1, wherein said determination means acquires an average S/N value and average voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means and selects said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power are

greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

4. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition system according to claim 3, wherein:

said determination means determines a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

 said speech recognition means sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

5. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein said determination means comprises:

treating those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.


6. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the meaning of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, is determined to be that those speech signals

whose average S/N value and average voice power become minimum and that such signals are treated as noise by said determination means.

7. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition system mounted on a vehicle having a plurality of seats, comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup sections for picking up uttered voices said plurality of voice pickup sections being arranged in each neighborhood of said plurality of seats, respectively;

a determination section for determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections; and

 a speech recognizer for performing speech recognition based on said speech signal determined by said determination section,


wherein said speech recognizer comprises a single unit capable of performing speech recognition for a plurality of voices.

8. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition system according to claim 7, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections whose speech level is equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is selected as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

9. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition system according to claim 7, wherein said determination section acquires an average S/N value and average voice

power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections and selects said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

10. (Original) The speech recognition system according to claim 9, wherein said determination section determines a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and



said speech recognizer sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

11. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 7 to 10, wherein said determination section treats those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.


12. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 7 to 10, wherein of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, that speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice

power become minimum is treated as a noise signal by said determination section.

13. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition method for a speech recognition system having a plurality of voice pickup means for picking up voices, which is mounted on a vehicle having a plurality of seats, comprising:

a voice pickup step of picking up uttered voices in a vehicle using said plurality of voice pickup means, said plurality of voice pickup means being arranged in each neighborhood of said plurality of seats, respectively;

a determination step of determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and

 a speech recognition step of performing speech recognition based on said speech signal determined by said determination step.

14. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to claim 13, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means whose speech level is equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is selected as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

15. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to claim 13, wherein said determination step includes a step of acquiring an average S/N value and average voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means and selecting said speech signal whose average S/N value and

average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

16. (Original) The speech recognition method according to claim 15, wherein said determination step further includes a step of determining a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognition step sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

17. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition method according to ~~any one~~ of claims claim 13 to 16, wherein said determination step includes a step of treating those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.

18. (Currently Amended) The speech recognition method according to ~~any one~~ of claims claim 13 to 16, wherein of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, that speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power become minimum is treated as a noise signal in said determination step.

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